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G L A N C E

AT

Private Libraries,

BY

LUTHER FARNHAM.

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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A few years since the late Prof. B. B. Edwards, D. D., requested me to prepare for the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, of which he was an editor, an article on private libraries. The preparation of the paper was commenced, but on the death of Prof. E. was suspended, until recently, when it was completed according to the original plan. By request the manuscript was read at the regular monthly meeting of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society in October last, and in accordance with a unanimous vote of the Society, it is now published.

The libraries noticed are chiefly of Boston and neighborhood, and embrace only those that have accidentally or otherwise come to my knowledge. Of course, the faintest glimpse of libraries, such as is given, does not do them justice, and is a very imperfect view of any one of them; still it was all that the plan of the Essay embraced. Possibly there may be a demand for a view of the wealth of all the private libraries in this section of the country, or even of the whole land, at no distant day. This commencement of researches in a new and interesting field of inquiry is respectfully dedicated to all collectors and lovers of good books, with the hope, that they may find in it somewhat of entertainment, if not of instruction.

L. F.

*Boston, December 1, 1855.*

## A GLANCE AT PRIVATE LIBRARIES.

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THIS country is sadly in want of books. We can boast of a land stretching from sea to sea, with the greatest varieties of climate, soil and productions. Our national power upon land and water is unquestioned. In opulence, population, present and prospective, in the character of its institutions, and in the intelligence of the people, and in most that goes to make a great nation, this republic ranks as a first-rate power. The most civilized states of Europe send their agents to examine our system of free schools, with the idea that the old world may be better off to introduce them ; and our institutions of mercy and charity are more than respectable ; while American ships and other fruits of our skill excite general admiration. We hear of men from the other side who visit us to witness the autumnal tints of an American forest, or to gaze upon Ni-

agara, or a prairie, or the lakes, or the father of rivers.

But what visitor crosses the sea to view our libraries? Who has ever heard of them abroad, except their diminutive size and meager character has given them a "bad eminence?" We have not a single library with one hundred thousand volumes, while there are several in Europe with five times this number of books, and one or two with a million or more.\* Indeed, our largest public libraries would attract no special notice in a small town on the Continent. And our libraries (unless there may be recent exceptions) have been as much wanting in the quality of their books, as in their quantity. To look at many of the volumes that are to be found in our public libraries, one would think, that those who by a figure of speech are called the donors, ought to pay for their storage, particularly, where they mar the appearance of very nice library halls. They remind one of the books that are sometimes sent to the missionaries of the western section of our country, apparently because the proprietors

\* The Paris correspondent of an American journal has recently written of what he terms the largest library in the world. He says: "The *Bibliothèque Nationale*, in the Rue Richelieu contains at the present time fourteen hundred thousand volumes, or about four times the whole number of books in the public libraries of Massachusetts. The volumes are mostly in handsome binding of colored leather enriched with gilt, and are placed in solid walls from floor to ceiling, with net work for protection as high as the hand can reach."

know not how else to dispose of them,—forgetting that the only light that many books can shed is that evolved when they are used to kindle fires.

America has produced a few authors worthy the name ; but it has been in spite of the want of books in this country, and not through their abundance. Our great authors have found the material of their works in the vast libraries of Europe, or else they have imported it for themselves at a very heavy expense. The late President Adams undertook to collect the authorities referred to by Gibbon in his History of Rome,—not half of which were then, probably, to be found on this side of the water. The lecturer upon any historical subject, except that pertaining to America, would be obliged to visit Europe to find ample materials,—certainly if he was confined to the *public* libraries of this country.

Our nation is not to be reproached for its paucity of libraries. There were many things that necessarily preceded large public collections of books. The land was to be cleared and cultivated. After bread came the church, the school-house, and the town-house; and such collections of books as might be expected in a new country of vast material resources, that began early to mature,



and that are now developed with wonderful activity. "The set time" for the proper materials to cultivate the mind is at hand. Already public attention is directed to the subject. Very recently a few libraries in this country have indicated a most promising growth. It is quite safe to predict, that a few years more only will be needed to give us, at least, two or three collections of books of two hundred thousand volumes each; and looking forward half a century, we can see a national library of half a million or a million tomes,—for when any important enterprise is once started in America, it moves forward as in no other country of the world.

One result of the scarcity of public libraries has been the increase of valuable private collections of books. American scholars have done from necessity what they might not have done without such a stimulant. And then, we have readers who have preferred to own such books as gratified their reading inclination, rather than to be confined to a small circulating library, or to a larger public one,—in neither of which, owing to their size, as compared to the number of readers, could there be a reasonable hope of securing a required book, without an outlay of time, trouble and disappointment, more than equal to the cost

of it. And then we have a very useful class of persons who, though not pretending to be great scholars, have spent much time and money in collecting books, old or new, American or foreign, general or special; but always to some useful end, as well as to the inferior one of gratifying personal and public curiosity. Such persons are sometimes termed amateur collectors. They love books and they love to own them. They love to arrange them chronologically, or by subjects, or by some other order. They may fancy to collect the first editions of books of a world-wide reputation, or to possess all the oldest books, whether printed or written. Or they may collect all the *valuable* new books in whatever language published, or in whatever country. The collector may adopt another course, and pile up all the books in a given department of knowledge,—say, law in its most comprehensive sense; theology, or medicine, history, or biography.

For private collections, this last plan is, perhaps, the most important in a public view; for if it were practicable for a number of gentlemen to unite, with the understanding that each should make a perfect collection in his department, in a brief period, there might be found in this country, and in any particular portion of it, all the



books and manuscripts that any author or scholar would have occasion to consult, that readers would be glad to read, or the curious to see and to handle.

The few private libraries of Boston and neighborhood, that we have found the time to glance at, have revealed quite unexpected riches. The ten having the largest number of books contain, by a pretty careful estimate, ninety-two thousand volumes; and the twelve largest have more than one hundred thousand volumes. It is safe to say, that we have thirty other private libraries that will give an aggregate of one hundred thousand books. There are then within ten miles of the State House private libraries of one thousand volumes and upwards each, that will count up from two hundred thousand to three hundred thousand volumes. We believe that this will be regarded as a low estimate, by those at all conversant with the wealth of books among us that have never met the public eye. A pretty good story for one little section of the country. And if other portions can make as good a report, (and it is not to be doubted that, in respect to the size of libraries, better returns can be made,) then our country is about as much distinguished for its private libraries of note, as it is undistinguished for large

and rare public libraries. Why, the library of Lord Spencer, of England, is thought to be very large, with less than sixty thousand books. Many Americans own libraries that would be thought creditable for an English nobleman. And it would not be surprising, if at the present moment, we could show a larger number of rather uncommon domestic libraries than Great Britain itself. That this country may at some future day be in advance of the father-land, in this department, seems not improbable, since some of the finest libraries of that country have recently been sold and scattered.\* That, for example, of Horace Walpole, at Strawberry Hill, was sold in 1840-1842, for the large sum of near \$200,000.†

Let us now examine more in detail, a few libraries. That of Mr. Edward Everett,‡ though not half as large as some others in the country, is one of the most perfect in its arrangement and most useful for a general scholar. The department of international law, diplomacy and political economy, (to which Mr. Everett has been led by his public duties to pay particular attention,)

\* For the present, new libraries may be forming in Great Britain as fast as old ones disappear.

† Democratic Review.

‡ It is due to Mr. Everett, and to others, to say, that they were reluctant to have their libraries brought thus prominently before the public, and only consented at the urgent request of the writer, and perhaps with the hope that such an article may be of some utility.

is well supplied. It contains the principal collections of treaties, elementary writers and commentators on these subjects. In American history, general and special, and in works belonging to the political progress of the country, the collection is full; containing complete sets of Force's Archives, Gales and Seaton's State papers, the Annals of Congress, the Congressional Globe, Niles' Register, and numerous other works of this class. In the department of American literature are found complete sets of most of the literary and scientific journals which have been published in the United States; also many of the principal works in American science, such as Wilson, Audubon, Michaux, Nu Hall; and a very fine large paper copy of the Exploring Expedition and the accompanying reports. The collected works of the great American statesman, and also of the principal American authors are in their places. Another division of the library contains the standard authors in prose and poetry of Great Britain,—many of those of recent dates being presents from the authors. Complete sets of the leading English periodicals are found in this class, which is also well supplied in English history. The department of ancient literature, sacred and profane, contains copies of the Scriptures in the

original and other languages,—among them a fine copy of Eliot's Indian Bible ;—a large number of dictionaries, cyclopedias and grammars, and the principal Latin and Greek authors. The division of modern languages is supplied with the principal works of the French, Italian, and German standard writers, with a few in most of the other languages of the Continent of Europe. In French history, we notice, besides the more popular authors, the great work of Dom Bouquet,—a copy formerly belonging to Joseph Bonaparte,—and the *Documens Inedits*, published under the government of Louis Philippe. There is a copy of Voltaire's *Historical Essays* in several volumes, which formed a part of the travelling library of Napoleon I., and was presented by his nephew, the Prince Canino, to Mr. E. The library also contains a pretty large collection of works in practical theology, ethics and mental philosophy.

A few years ago Mr. E. presented to the city of Boston, as a contribution to the Public Library, a collection of Congressional documents and other works pertaining to the politics and history of the country, amounting to more than a thousand volumes. The number of volumes remaining is from seven to eight thousand. A separate apartment connected with the principal library room



contains a large collection of pamphlets. They are arranged according to subjects in above four hundred pamphlet cases, and must amount to five or six thousand. This is in addition to many hundreds which have been separately bound up. A large cabinet is filled with Mr. E.'s manuscripts, consisting of his own letter-books, diaries, and the letters of his correspondents,—the latter arranged alphabetically in port-folio volumes;—the whole amounting to a hundred and thirty or forty volumes. These manuscripts cover the entire period of Mr. E.'s literary and public life. Among the files of his correspondence are letters from a large number of the men of eminence in this country and Europe for the forty last years. There are also a few manuscripts of some antiquity, among them a collection of the original commissions and grants of the Spanish Crown to Columbus, substantially a duplicate of that preserved at Genoa, and published in 1823.

The masked door, communicating with one of the adjoining rooms, presents three rows of imitation shelves, with the titles of the lost works of ancient literature and imaginary French works, very skilfully executed.

We have thus taken a bird's-eye view of the library proper. It has been too hasty and imper-



fect to give any adequate view of its treasures. Before dismissing the subject we may observe that the library room is ornamented with the portraits and busts of some of the most distinguished men of our own and foreign countries. The room being lofty and wholly lighted from above, is well adapted to show them to advantage, as arranged,—a bust and a statue alternately on the tops of the cases. Among the busts and portraits in the library and the adjoining rooms are those of Presidents Washington and J. Q. Adams, Marshall, Webster, Clay, Channing, Prescott, Burke, Grotius, Sir Walter Scott, the Poet Rogers, Lords Aberdeen and Brougham,—and several family likenesses by Copley, Stuart, Powers and Healey, together with a few copies from the antique. A beautiful deer-hound in marble, by Horatio Greenough, guards the entrance.

A few articles of curiosity are distributed about the library and adjoining rooms. Among these may be mentioned implements and weapons of the native tribes of this continent, and of the islands of the Pacific; an ancient halberd from the tower of London; specimens of the stamped paper prepared under the stamp act in 1765; balls from some of the principal battle fields in Europe and America; an ear of Indian corn from

an ancient Peruvian tomb ; various local souvenirs of foreign countries ; a small lock of the hair of Napoleon I., and so forth.

The library room itself is worthy of inspection. It was added by the owner to his mansion house. It is altogether a very striking one, and is beautifully adapted to the double purpose of a library and a study. In this very room have been prepared numbers of those orations and less formal addresses that have charmed Senates, alike with the more miscellaneous assemblies that have never heard our Cicero but with the greatest delight. If the great orator has caught any inspiration more than the subject and the occasion have excited, in connection with his own genius, it has come from those speaking shelves,—those towering busts,—those animated faces, that look out from the canvass, all conspiring to make one eloquent.

The library of Mr. William H. Prescott, the historian, has one or two thousand volumes less than that just spoken of. It is systematically arranged in a beautiful room that he built for the purpose on the rear of his residence, Beacon Street. The strength of the library is in history, and particularly that history that has aided him in becoming a leading historian of the world. It is principally

found in four very large cases that line the walls of the room. The library is fullest in English works, is very rich in Spanish, full in French, and presents a good collection of Italian books, since the owner once designed to write a history of Italian literature.

Mr. Prescott is constantly receiving presents of books from all portions of the world. Among them is Mr. Ford's *Iland Book of Spain*,—two superb books from an English poet whose acquaintance he made when in Europe, with this poetical inscription :

"A few short days may form friendships,  
Which no length of days can dissolve."

The great attraction of the library are some thirty volumes of manuscript that the historian has collected, to be used in the construction of his immortal histories. These manuscripts have cost him about as much as the whole library beside. The library abounds with curiosities, such as the original letters of Ferdinand, Isabella, and Charles V.,—the vase of an Inca, from Peru,—a piece of lace from the shroud of Cortez,—together with striking portraits of Ferdinand and Isabella,—of Columbus,—of Don Sebastian, King of Portugal,—and of most of the characters that figure in his histories. Perhaps, the pet orna-

ments of the library are two swords, the identical weapons worn by his grandfather, Col. Prescott, and his wife's grandfather, Capt. Linzee,—the first of whom led the American troops at the battle of Bunker Hill, and the last of whom was about as prominent a leader on the other side.\* The swords are crossed, presenting a loving union, as they hang from the ceiling.

The historian does not do his writing in his library, but in a room directly above it, which is reached by passing through a masked door filled with mock books, up a long winding staircase. The study overlooks Chesnut Street and the Back Bay,—is very light, to meet the wants of one whose sight is imperfect, and is every way adapted most admirably to its purpose. In this room, of moderate size, have been composed many of those charming pages that have delighted alike the reader in various parts of the world, and of various languages. Here, using an apparatus such as the blind use, the author dashes off, on an average, seven pages of one of his printed histories daily, or as much as the man with the best pair of eyes ever ought to write. It must be remembered, that he could not write thus rapidly

\* Lord Mahon, in his History of England, refers very pleasantly to these swords, in a foot-note. He trusts they will be an emblem and pledge of the perpetual unity that shall exist between the nations represented.



without the previous labor of turning over and digesting the matter, that he finally puts on paper, in so finished a state, that only a practiced eye and mind might think it needed further finishing.

In years past, during two or three months of the summer, Mr. Prescott has been accustomed to compose at his former country seat, on that rock-bound peninsula Nahant; and later in the season, for a month, at his farm in Pepperell,—an estate that he possessed from his ancestors. His library has not accompanied him to these beautiful spots for thought and composition, but only such books and manuscripts as answered an immediate purpose.

One of the most attractive libraries is that of Mr. Rufus Choate, that embraces, including professional books, seven thousand volumes, many of which are quite rare, and in the best editions. His books are scientifically arranged, and present themselves in the most inviting manner. No one could live in his library, we dare say, without becoming a reader, if he had no previous taste, and he would stand more than an even chance of becoming a scholar. Indeed, a person can hardly fail of being educated by and according to his daily surroundings. The library room or rooms



of Mr. Choate, (for the entire second story of a good sized house are devoted to such guests as Homer, Demosthenes, Pindar, Livy, Bacon, Shakespeare, and such worthies, or to what are popularly called books,) are extremely attractive, since though not originally built for the purpose, they appear to entertain their undying guests gracefully, and yet with no sort of art, or pretence.

This library is particularly rich in the Greek and Latin classics, for which the owner has a passion, and has read for their own sake, more, perhaps, than any other professional gentleman in this country. His shelves exhibit five or six editions of Pindar, Horace, Livy, and of other Latin and Greek authors. The library abounds with political volumes, and is full in the department of history ; and in theology and ecclesiastical history we know of no layman who has such treasures. On these last subjects he has the leading Christian fathers. On the law of nations it is pretty full, and very full in law in general, in which is embraced a rare book, *Suarez De Legibus et Deo Legislatore*. Science has not been forgotten, as Bayle's Dictionary in French, Erasmus, Lipsius, and similar works declare. In cyclopaedias of various kinds there is a tempting display. Among rare books not noticed in the libra-

ries just described are Rymer's *Fœdera*, Du Cange's *Glossarium*, and *Athenæsius*. In a word, it is a library such as a first-rate lawyer and scholar would select, who had also a great love of books in general, particularly those containing good old English literature, both prose and verse.\* What a pleasant change this library, after the conflicts of the Court House.

The late Mr. Abbott Lawrence found a source of recreation during thirty or forty years in collecting some ten thousand volumes. They are of quite a miscellaneous character, such as an active business and practical man, who did not pretend to be a scholar, would be likely to gather around

\* It is evident that Mr. Choute spoke from experience in the following eloquent words, which he used in the course of his address delivered at Danvers in September, 1854, at the opening of the Peabody Institute in that town. The thoughts are the more appropriate since one special object of Mr. Peabody of London, the generous founder, was the gathering of a library: "Let the case of a busy lawyer testify to the priceless value of the love of reading. He comes home, his temples throbbing, his nerves shattered, from a trial of a week; surprised and alarmed by the charge of the judge, and pale with anxiety about the verdict of the next morning, not at all satisfied with what he has done himself, though he does not yet see how he could have improved it, recalling with dread and self-disparagement, if not with envy, the brilliant effort of his antagonist, and tormenting himself with the vain wish that he could have replied to it—and altogether a very miserable subject, and in as unfavorable a condition to accept comfort from wife and children as poor Christian in the first three pages of the *Pilgrim's Progress*. With a superhuman effort he opens his book, and in the twinkling of an eye he is looking into the full 'orb of Homeric or Miltonic song,' or he stands in the crowd breathless, yet swayed as forests or the sea by winds—hearing and to judge the *Pleadings for the Crown*, or the philosophy which soothed Cicero or Boethius in their afflictions, in exile, prison, and the contemplation of death, breathes over his petty cares like the sweet South; or Pope or Horace laughs him into good humor, or he walks with *Kneass* and the *Sybil* in the mild light of the world of the laurelled dead—and the court house is as completely forgotten as the dream of a pre-Adamite life. Well may he prize that endearing charm, so effectual and safe, without which the brain had long ago been chilled with paralysis, or set on fire of insanity!"

him. The strength of the library is in English and American literature. There is a rich collection of the histories of the different states, counties and towns of this country, together with general histories of the nation. Then, there is a valuable collection of the various dictionaries and encyclopedias, and a good variety of books on political economy, geography, biography, and on biblical literature. Among the various Bibles, is to be found Scott's, which, although prepared by a clergyman of the Church of England, is one of the most common books to be found among the Puritans of New England.

Added to the books, Mr. Lawrence collected in his own language, he had a considerable number in French, and a few in Italian, Spanish and German. He never proposed the object to himself of collecting a library, but as a practical man, and as one who has been considerably in the public service in this country and Great Britain, simply purchased books when he wanted them, and aimed to buy books of everyday use, and not those merely interesting to the antiquarian, or the bibliographer.

Mr. L. preserved his pamphlets and his letters, in the course of a long period of correspondence with the most eminent men of the world.

He had three volumes of dispatches received by him while connected with three cabinets of Great Britain, and three more of his own replies to those missives. He learned not to allow himself to burn scarcely any thing of either printed or manuscript matter,—a lesson that many have yet to learn, before we shall cease to mourn over the destruction of the materials of a national literature, that persons thoughtlessly destroy, but can never replace.

It may be mentioned in connection with the library of Mr. L.,\* that he had quite a rare collection of coins and medals; and that his library is ornamented with the busts of the men of genius of America and Europe, and with appropriate pictures. Indeed, his late mansion is full of engravings, of the works of the chisel and the pencil, and of other curiosities, many of which he had bought not only for the love of them, as he had

\* Now that Mr. Lawrence is no more among us, it may not be improper to state, that the writer visited him at his request, for the purpose of inspecting his library, he having previously learned the plan of the library article. It was in his library, where Mr. L. was accustomed to spend much of his time, particularly during his last days, that he received the writer, and gave his personal attention in pointing out some of the treasures of the room, and of those adjoining. He entered into the spirit of our object, and appreciated its bearings in promoting both better public and private collections of books, which he considered one great want of our country. He conversed for more than an hour upon authors and books,—upon art and artists,—and especially upon American education and literature; and he spoke so intelligently, and with so much good sense, that a stranger might have supposed he had given his life to these subjects. It is not too much to say, and it is not out of place to say it here, that when Mr. Abbott Lawrence departed this life, one of the best friends of literature and learning left us, and one of those very rare persons in America, who can be said to have been a patron of scholars and artists.



books, but also to encourage American authors and artists, because their works are the last to be appreciated and patronized in a new, and to a great extent uncultivated country, like our own.

The library room of Mr. L. was built for a library, and is, perhaps, the most pleasant room in the house. It overlooks the Common, and is every way attractive. Its pleasant aspect renders it agreeable to the reader and student, as well as its literary and artistic treasures. And we venture the observation, that the owner, after the business day was over, found no room so pleasant as this, and none where he could so truly rest his body, and refresh his spirit. In this view, a good library is worth more to a mere business man than it costs. There is no recreation and rest to be compared to that afforded by one, to a right minded person. A library has been called a collection of medicines for the mind ; and Diodorus Siculus tells us that a king of Egypt inscribed over the door of his library two Greek words, which Englished mean, the dispensary for the soul.

It has been a common idea that no matter how retired, narrow and unattractive the room of the student,—that authors and artists can do best in garrets. But this is all a mistake. There is



nothing so conducive to good thoughts, as a good place in which to think. Whatever authors have done in attics, they would have done better in the most attractive rooms, if they had been tolerably retired. We have learned lately that young scholars need large, pleasant and well ventilated school houses, to make the greatest proficiency in their studies. The library should be just the sunniest, cosiest, most agreeable room in one's house. The possessor should *love* it. The wife and children should love it; and thus they will all love the books the more, and will be sure to become scholars or readers,—just the results we ask of a private library. We say nothing of the domestic bliss induced, for who does not know that the family that truly enjoys the library, loving both study or reading, or either one, enjoy more than all the attendants of plays, and of fashionable places, and all the pleasures of sights and sounds that the whole round of nature yields?

The library room of Dr. John C. Warren is a fine one that was constructed for the purpose, overlooking a pleasant prospect. He counts up about six thousand volumes, which he has been busily gathering for more than half a century. The books are arranged by subjects, in small

cases, as follows:—anatomy, surgery, medicine, natural history, theology, history, general science, classical literature, and miscellany. It will thus be seen to be a professional library,—just such an one as an eminent physician and surgeon should possess. Several complete sets of medical journals, home and foreign,—Cuvier complete, and De Blainville look particularly inviting. The proprietor has spared no pains in securing the best books for his purposes, and in the best editions. He has a good collection of pamphlets, which he preserves effectually by having them bound.

Dr. Warren himself is the author of several useful books and pamphlets, which he has published at intervals during a long and useful life. A late book of his is entitled the “Genealogy of Warren,” and for beauty of illustrations and execution it excels any thing of the kind that has been published in this country.

Among other curiosities he has the very Psalm Book that he believes was taken from the coat-pocket of his uncle General Warren, after he was killed in the bloody conflict at Bunker Hill. Several rooms of his house are filled with collections in the department of natural history, embracing portions of the mastodon, and the fossils

of America and of Europe. No one can look at these without feeling that the President of the Boston Society of Natural History has a genuine taste in this direction, otherwise he would throw his old stones and bones out of his windows. As it is, he treats them as well as any other guests he has, and, we believe, gives them the best rooms.

Another rare private library is that of Mr. Francis C. Gray, of nearly four thousand volumes. He would have now possessed more, but for the destruction of his law library in Court Street in 1825 by fire, by which he lost of law and classical books two thousand. Mr. Gray's library is more precious than large. The strength of it is in English and French, and it is pretty full in the classics and in German. It contains many Anglo Saxon and Norman books. And added to these, there are Italian and theological works. The proprietor has quite a collection of treatises on the book of Job, as he once proposed to write on that inspired poem. Among his rare and valuable books are the first editions of Shakspeare in folio, and that of Spencer;—Jameson's Scottish Dictionary, Glossaire De La Romaine, (quite rare,) a Russian Dictionary, Fern's Original Letters in the times of the English sovereigns

Edward IV., Henry VI., and Richard III. The library is quite full in works on the fine arts. Mr. Gray has never attempted to gather a library, but has purchased books for many years as he found occasion to use them. He has many valuable paintings, engravings and maps. The library is well arranged, in a room built for the purpose, which is situated like Dr. Warren's, and reminds one of it.

Thus we have found three libraries on Park Street, containing about twenty thousand volumes, and if we embrace the choice library of Mr. Ticknor, we shall have thirty-three thousand on one short street, all belonging to persons, living almost in adjoining dwellings. Such another cluster cannot, we suspect, be found in this section of the country.

The library of Rev. Nathaniel L. Frothingham, D. D., is admirably adapted to the double purpose of a library and study. It was built for those purposes,—is light, and is a room that a student or reader would love. He has quite a collection of the Greek and Latin classics, of works in the modern European languages, of theology, of general miscellany; but he is richest in English literature. His from three to four thousand pamphlets are bound and catalogued. The hundreds



of sermons he preached during a long pastorate are also chronologically arranged in cases, and, with the well known habits of the author, we may safely say, they are finished sufficiently for the press. Dr. Frothingham is not only a reader, but a scholar and author, and to him his books are what tools are to the mechanic. His occupation, as well as one chief source of his amusement, must cease without them.

It has given the writer pleasure repeatedly to examine the library of Mr. Franklin Haven, who added to business of the most arduous and responsible nature, has found leisure for reading, and for some attainments in scholarship. His library is more choice than large. There are more than four thousand volumes, that have been chiefly imported from Europe.

He is richest in English literature, in the best editions, and in superb binding. We noticed, also, the standard American<sup>\*</sup> works, and a fair collection of books in the modern languages of Europe.

Besides several rather rare books already mentioned in connection with other libraries, he has a book of Plates, entitled Gallery Versailles, and a magnificent work, Daniel's Oriental Scenery, in three very large folio volumes. But we suppose



that Mr. Haven values more than any other the complete works of Daniel Webster, beautifully executed, and which were presented him by the author himself, as a slight token of the regard he had for him, and as a memento of the friendship that had existed between them for many years. Such is the substance of a note accompanying the volumes,—a very valuable autograph.

Mr. Haven has, within a few years, built a library for the reception of his books. It reminds one of Mr. Webster's, at Marshfield, particularly in the style of the cases. The room is forty feet long, by seventeen wide, and the same in height.

Mr. David Sears has about four thousand books. He is particularly rich in French literature. He has Voltaire in seventy volumes, Buffon's Natural History in one hundred and twenty-seven volumes, Auber's History of the French Revolution, Napoleon's Campaigns in Italy by the same, the Encyclopédie Méthodique of some two hundred and fifty volumes, and Boret's Manual on the Industry of France; together with several French works on military affairs. Another work is entitled the Gallery of the Museum of France. There is a pretty good variety of English books. Wilson's and Audubon's Ornithology are worthy

of notice, and several other works equally scarce in private collections. He has a library room proper, but no catalogue, and in this respect, he seems to be in the condition of most who have books enough to make such an article desirable, but not indispensable.

Mr. Edward A. Crowninshield has one of the rarest libraries of old English books in this section of the country. It is not large, the entire number being from twenty-five hundred to three thousand volumes. It is quite rich in early American history and biography. He has a perfect copy of the old Bay Psalm Book, perhaps the only one owned by a private individual in New England. Among other rare books we noticed, was an original copy of Cushman's Plymouth Sermon, Purchas Pilgrims, Smith's History of Virginia and New England, (an original copy,) Hypocrisie Unmasked by Edward Winslow, Hakluyt Voyages published in 1582, an original copy of the Christian Commonwealth by John Eliot, and a similar copy of Bradford and Winslow's Relation, published in London. Then he has the first edition of Chaucer, by Thomas Godfrey, of 1532; the same of Shakspeare's and Milton's Poems. Other rare books are The School Master, by Roger Ascham, Coryats Crudities of

1611, from the library of the Duke of Sussex, the whole Book of Psalms by Sternhold and Hopkins, and a book on angling by Borne, bearing date of 1486. Other books have a value more than their natural one, from their former owners; such as the copy of Chaucer owned by Charles Lamb, with his private notes, and several volumes that belonged to Robert Southey. Other books that may deserve mention, are the Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493, King James' Works, Dibdin's Biographical Works, and Samuel Gorton's Answer to Morton's Memorial in manuscript. We have thus given an imperfect list of some of the rarer gems of the library. The books are most elegantly bound, and being so choice, make a very fine appearance in the parlor of the owner's residence. One can hardly think of finer parlor ornaments, and it is a matter of wonder, that those who have no library proper, and are straitened for room, do not line their parlors with books, instead of packing them in closets, or attics; and thus render the best rooms more attractive, and their books more useful.

Mr. Richard Frothingham, Jr., of Charlestown, has a good working library of more than four thousand volumes, which he has found pleasure in collecting since he was a mere lad. The

strength of the library is in history and politics, or on those subjects in which the owner is well known to be most interested, and on which he daily employs his pen. Besides books that we have previously mentioned in connection with other libraries, he has Rushworth's Historical Collections, Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, histories of all the different States, so far as published,—nearly one hundred local histories, town and other, of Massachusetts,—the Congressional Globe complete,—every work on the Constitution of the United States that has been issued,—and the Congressional Debates complete. He is quite full in periodical literature and in cyclopædias. In the former department we noticed among other tempting volumes, a complete set of the Edinburgh Review,—and among the latter, the London Encyclopædia. The number of pamphlets is large, and that of newspapers uncommonly so.

Another speciality may be mentioned, and that is a complete collection of all that has been published on the battle of Bunker Hill.

Mr. Lucius M. Sargent, of Roxbury, has a fine library of several thousand volumes. Though the writer has often been in the library, yet having no design, at those times, to publicly notice



it, he is now only able to say, that the library is very rich in English literature, with such other books as a scholar and reader of leisure would be likely to gather around him. We remember to have had our attention called to Hansard's Parliamentary Debates,—to the Lives of the British Lord Chancellors and Chief Justices. There are many gems in the collection. Mr. Sargent's house is full of works of art, and of divers curiosities, both interesting and rare. The library is all the more attractive, particularly during the warmer months, from its remarkable situation, surrounded by a natural forest,—from the fine views in different directions, of land and water, of cities, forests and fields that it commands, and from its complete retirement, without giving to the occupant any feeling of loneliness.

Mr. B. Homer Dixon has a speciality of from twelve to fourteen hundred volumes, principally on genealogy, heraldry, armory and kindred subjects. It is, without doubt, the richest of the kind in Boston, as may be inferred from the titles of a few of his books,—Logan's Clans of the Scottish Highlands, most beautifully illustrated with colored plates,—Meyrick's Critical Inquiry into Ancient Armor, as it existed in Europe,—Stothard's Monumental Effigies of Great Britain,

Strutt's Complete View of the Dress and Habits of the People of England,—The New Statistical Account of Scotland, by the Ministers of the Respective Parishes,—Crawford's and Douglass' Peerage, Burke and other English Heraldic works,—Douglass' Baronage, etc. etc. The room is well suited to the size and character of the books, and the specimens of ancient armor with which it is ornamented are both curious and rare.

The library of Mr. George Ticknor is one of the most distinguished. It is agreed, that he has the choicest collection of Spanish books out of Spain. It is rich also in other departments. The entire number of volumes is thirteen thousand. The library room is one of the very finest. It is a charming room that overlooks the pleasantest prospects afforded within the city of Boston and beyond it. It combines the full advantages of a library, of a study, and of a sitting room. Mr. Ticknor is understood to be particularly liberal in lending his books to every one who will use them. Having merely been in the library, without examining a single book, we are obliged to content ourselves with these brief generalities.

The library of Mr. J. Wingate Thornton, of

Brookline, contains not far from fifteen hundred books, relating specially to early American Colonization, particularly of New England, and to the rise of Puritanism in Church and State. Among the rarities may be specified an elegant copy of the 1617 folio of De Bry upon America, illustrated by his engravings from the original drawings made by With, the artist in Sir Walter Raleigh's Expedition to Virginia, in 1584;—a fine copy of Selden's *Mare Clausum*, 1652, sent by Thomas Hollis to the Rev. Dr. Mayhew, and containing manuscript notes by the former;—also Heylyn's *Cosmographie*, 1657,—a folio from the library of the Apostle Eliot, whose marginal notes are scattered through the volume;—a copy of Thane's *British Autography*, four volumes. Mr. T. has “the Journall, The Faithful Post,” the newspaper published by the British Parliament, 1644–1650, and the Boston News Letter,—the Boston Post Boy, 1719, and successive years. His copy of Pridcaux's *Connections* is rendered thrice precious since it came from the library of Jonathan Edwards in 1751, and from that of his pupil Samuel Hopkins in 1782. Other rarities are an elegant copy of the first edition of Chillingworth's *Religion of Protestants*, 1638;—Norton's *Orthodox Evangelist*, presented by him to

Richard Mather, with Mather's notes ;—a large and valuable collection of early New England pamphlets, embracing the Missionary Reports of Eliot and Mayhew among the Indians, etc. In the rich collection of manuscripts the earliest is the Sheffield Charter, a beautiful fac-simile of which has recently been published. There are also manuscripts of most of the early worthies of New England. Among those of a later date are originals of the parole of the British forces cantoned at Cambridge, Dec. 13, 1777, under the restrictions of the convention made on the 16th of October, between Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne and Maj. Gen. Gates at Saratoga ; and the same Nov. 17, 1778, signed “J. Burgoine, Lieut. General,” and by Riedesel. Maj. General, and the commissioned officers, numbering several hundred.

Under date of Dec. 12, 1854, Mr. Charles F. Adams says, in a note to the writer, “My library is unfortunately so much scattered in four separate houses, three of them in Quincy locked up for the winter, that I can scarcely promise to give you a sight of more than the portion I have here, which is by no means the largest.” The portion referred to, Mr. Adams has collected himself. It is composed chiefly of modern editions of the classics, and of English literature. The



entire library is undoubtedly the largest in New England, embracing from seventeen to eighteen thousand volumes, that belonged to his father and grandfather, the two President Adams', with his own purchases. His father purchased his books in Holland, Berlin, Russia and England, while abroad in the public service. He bought mostly in Holland. He was full in German editions of the classics; very full in French, and had a very large collection of English books. Added to these, he had a large number of political and diplomatic works, and the French biographies of the day. His law library was pretty large. Both his father and grandfather left a large number of volumes in manuscript, nearly one hundred and fifty volumes in all, the most of which treasures the reading world have not yet had an opportunity to examine. His father had collected considerable theology. It is a noticeable fact, that there are but two *public* libraries in Boston that contain more books each than are found in that of Mr. Adams.

We come now to speak very briefly of several other libraries that we have not examined, nor even seen. The information may yet be relied on, as it has usually been furnished us in writing. The library of Rev. William Jenks, D. D., contains

near five thousand books, and would number more, but for the books that he has given to several public libraries at home and abroad. He owned but eighty books when he left college. He has purchased since as he wanted, and as he could afford. The library is richest in philology and biblical criticism. He has the Bible, in whole or in part, in forty different languages. The next fullest department is that of the Greek and Latin classics. Then come theology, history, biography, and his pamphlet department, in which are from two to three thousand. He has considerable law literature, and some Chinese books, and he gave a larger number to aid in the formation of the library of the Oriental Society, in which he took an active and leading interest from the beginning.

Mr. Robert C. Winthrop has never pretended to collect an imposing library. The books he has are "fit, though few." He modestly writes of it: "It is a mere workshop, with twelve or fifteen hundred tools, and makes no pretension to a *show library*."<sup>\*</sup>

The following extract from a pleasant note from Mr. Henry W. Longfellow, will remind the

<sup>\*</sup> It should be mentioned, that Mr. Winthrop made a donation of books to the Boston Public Library,—a valuable collection of several hundred volumes.

reader of what was recorded of the poet Wordsworth's books : " I am afraid my library is hardly worthy of a place in your list. In fact it is hardly a library at all ; but some books, scattered all over the house, in entries, dressing-rooms and closets, to the amount, perhaps, of three thousand, though I have never counted them." A poet's description of a poet's library.

Mr. Joseph E. Worcester, of Cambridge, has, including pamphlets, considerably more than two thousand volumes. He writes : " My library consists of works on lexicography and philology, geography and statistics, history, theology and miscellaneous literature. My purpose has been to make it as complete as I could in respect to English dictionaries and glossaries, and perhaps it is as complete as any library in the country, in relation to works of this kind. It comprises as many as two hundred and twenty or thirty dictionaries, but many of them are of little value.

Mr. Jared Sparks, of Cambridge, writes of his books : " I have nothing worthy of public notice. My collection consists of about six thousand volumes, more than half of them pertaining to American history, the others miscellaneous. I do not perceive that they can be described in any way to add interest to your article on libraries."

The following brief description of the library now belonging to Dr. Morrill Wyman, of the same city, together with its touching history, will be read with interest: "I send you a catalogue of the library of Prof. Tiedeman, which has been recently transferred to Cambridge. Prof. Tiedeman is one of the most distinguished physiologists in Europe, formerly at Heidelberg, but for several years resident at Frankfort. He is ninety years of age and blind—and was anxious to dispose of his library, to enable him to increase his means of support, taken from him during the revolution of 1848. An examination of the catalogue will show how rich it is in anatomy and physiology and medicine. Some of the books are exceedingly rare and of great value." It is stated elsewhere, that the library is very valuable, and contains five thousand books.

The library of Mr. Theodore Parker is understood to be a rare one. He has been gathering books with a busy hand all his life. He estimates his library as containing from twelve to fifteen thousand, *in fifty or sixty different languages*, which he has collected from every quarter. The library is "rich in theology, metaphysics, biblical and patristic literature, in philology, in Greek, Roman and German authors."



Dr. John Jeffries has a collection of near two thousand volumes,—mostly medical works, that he inherited from his father, who perhaps had the best medical library of any physician in Boston in his day—a library that he gathered himself in Europe, while he studied and practiced abroad. In the collection are several very old and rare books on anatomy, beautifully illustrated. One volume has an account of the first case of dissection in England of a subject who died from an epidemic disease. A picture represents two dissectors over the dead body, one of whom is offering up a prayer to the great Creator. There was a rule that the body should not be touched before prayer. We also noticed in this library several old and rare classical works. As Dr. Jeffries the father owned it, it had extensive literary as well as professional treasures, and was altogether a large and valuable library for the last century on this side of the water.

The library of the Rev. Cyrus A. Bartol, a next door neighbor of Dr. J., on Chestnut Street, is of about the same extent. It is composed of theological, literary and miscellaneous works, with a fair proportion of books in the learned languages. It is a good working library for a hard toiling pastor, and it is pleasant to record that

the possessor lends more volumes than he uses himself. Thus his volumes are twice, yea thrice useful.

The reader who is interested in subjects of this nature, will thank the Rev. Barnas Sears, D. D., of Providence, for the following details on his library, which are taken from a letter of his under date of Dec. 28, 1854.

“I counted the volumes of my library to-day for the first time, and found that the number is four thousand eight hundred and twenty-five. My library embraces Latin and Greek classics, and philological and antiquarian works in illustration of them, all choice editions, purchased on the recommendation of German professors;—works on the earlier literature of Germany, England, France, with some on the old Norse, Danish, Swedish, Dutch and Provence languages. I have a pretty full collection of old works on systematic theology, including the best editions of several of the Latin and Greek Fathers;—select works, old and recent, on the interpretation of the Old and New Testament, mostly in Latin or German. *But my library is more especially historical*, both ecclesiastical and secular. I have a good supply of the general histories of the Church, of Greece and Rome, of the Middle

Ages, and of all the countries of modern Europe ; but the most rare and valuable part of my library consists of original *special* histories relating to the period of the Reformation, and what preceded or followed it,—every thing that belongs to, or borders upon the sixteenth century ;—histories of cities and towns, of Emperors, Electors, Dukes, Landgraves ; of eminent scholars, and theologians, (with their works) ;—a complete library of some hundreds of volumes on Luther ;—the works of Luther, Zuingli and Melancthon ;—the original editions of many of Luther's tracts, and others of his times ; histories of universities and gymnasia ; histories of monastic orders ; histories of medicine, of Roman and civil law, of philosophy, ancient and modern, of the different branches of theology ; histories of literature, ancient and modern, general and special ; biographies more numerous and more select than in any private library that I have seen in this vicinity, including all the more valuable 'monographs,' as they are called, of the German scholars. I have also numerous volumes of original letters, English and German, and diaries, etc. Indeed, the more special the history, the more valuable in my estimation. Most of my books came from Germany, and are in German or Latin. I have

many volumes that were printed in the early part of the sixteenth century."

We have a letter, dated Boston, Feb. 13, 1855, from Mr. Fletcher Webster, relating to the library of the late and lamented Hon. Daniel Webster. The following extracts give a general idea of the collection. "The library consists of about five thousand volumes, including the law-books. I am not aware that it contains any very rare or curious works. It is well selected for general reading, and very full on certain subjects. Agriculture, botany and history occupy a very considerable space on its shelves, and it has nearly all the popular philosophical works. Of late years my father seemed to seek books of reference, encyclopædias, hand-books, elementary treatises on such subjects as astronomy, geology, agriculture in its various branches, and works of that nature. There is a very large collection, I should say, of dictionaries, topographical, commercial, botanical and maritime, in various languages. There are few novels, except those of Scott and Edgeworth; but all the best poets, whom he was fond of reading and quoting, are found, together with the standard British and Latin classics, and many editions of Shakspeare.

"The collection is chiefly English, though there



is a very considerable portion of works in French and other languages. Of maps there are several, as it was my father's custom to let nothing remain uncertain, or half understood, and his maps and dictionaries were constantly referred to, on the slightest occasion of doubt. There is a large number of religious works, which he read very much, (as I believe you are aware,) and many Bibles, of different editions and in various languages. His library was by no means designed for show, nor were the volumes gaudily bound. The only show book that I now call to mind is Audubon's great work on the Birds of America. I am not aware, my dear Sir, of any further description that I can give you, without going very much into detail. You can readily conceive what volumes a person of my father's tastes, pursuits and character would naturally collect, to meet his wants as a lawyer, statesman, agriculturist and general student. The collection of official documents is quite extensive."

The writer is able to add, that he had the privilege, during Mr. Webster's life-time, to examine his library repeatedly, and he feels that the above note of his son has not spoken of it in terms at all extravagant. His Congressional books were more numerous than

any collection we know in this vicinity, and the library which was built a few years before the exit of the great statesman, taking into view its architecture, its position, which commands fine views of an open country, in the distance, and near, green fields, and a tiny sheet of water, is one of the most agreeable. It is a pleasant recollection of our's, that we met Mr. Webster, the first time we ever saw him at Marshfield, in that very library, on the afternoon of as pleasant a June day as ever gladdened his lovely home. The conversation for nearly an hour turned upon his books in general, upon the Bible in particular, and upon the Christian ministry, especially in Boston and neighborhood, when Mr. Webster removed there in 1816. The illustrious speaker was in his best mood, and discoursed to a little party of us, as he alone could; and such was the impression that he made upon one of the party, at least, that he could almost write out his converse verbatim even after a lapse of so many years. He remarked, on that occasion, that he had been collecting his library for thirty years, and that he had gathered only those books that he wished for his personal use.

During the month of July last, and after the

foregoing was prepared, the writer passed three days at Marshfield, in the company of Mr. Fletcher Webster and others, in examining with particular care the rich stores of the family library. We are now prepared to say, that the collection is better and fuller than Mr. Webster's note has made it. We now estimate the books at more than six thousand volumes. Of these some two thousand are political, if we embrace under that term congressional and diplomatic works. There are fully a thousand books of history; of cyclopædias, dictionaries and hand-books, there are five hundred. We know of no private library so full in this department. The same may be said of maps and guide books. On agriculture and works bearing upon it, we should say there are half a thousand. There is scarcely a useless book in the whole collection. The library is eminently one containing useful, every day knowledge; and one would judge from the books, that the owner bought for his own use and not at all for display, that he meant perfectly to understand every subject that he was called upon to investigate in his varied relations and callings; yea more, that he was interested to *know every thing*, that it is proper for man to know. And we suspect there is hardly a good

book in the whole collection that he had not read and mastered. We did not notice an infidel book, or one that would corrupt the mind, or the heart, but on the contrary, all are of a character to make both better. If "a man may be known by the company he keeps," then the man who collected and lived with these books, must be set down not simply as a great, but as a good man.

The library is now perfectly arranged by subjects in the several cases, as follows—Reference books; Poetry and Romance; History and Biography; Politics; Theology and Philosophy; Law; Diplomatic and Congressional; Agriculture and Science; Miscellaneous. All the books are properly classified under these subjects, and they are mainly in the Mansion Library Room, and in the Law office. Beside these, there are twelve hundred law and congressional books in the old Winslow House, awaiting better accommodations.

This library should be preserved as it is, and no doubt will be. Every visitor is desirous of seeing it as Mr. Webster saw it, and as he used it. It is one of the great attractions of his home. For forty years the lamented owner was collecting these literary works, and they are good representatives of his mind and heart. These were



the companions of his leisure hours, and those who have admired him in the Senate and in Court will know, when they see these books, that what they heard with so much pleasure, was the result of much study, which is a weariness of the flesh.

Mr. Caleb Cushing, of Newburyport, (now of Washington,) is known to have a rare collection of books in Chinese, which he collected while a Minister in "the Central flowery nation." He has also a precious museum of Mexican books and antiquities. The late Mr. Andrews Norton, of Cambridge, left a valuable library, containing books of theology, and those bearing upon that subject, which, it is well known, occupied his mind as a thinker and author. The library in connection with that of his son, Mr. Charles Eliot Norton, numbers about six thousand. It has been publicly stated, that Mr. Charles Sprague has a fine library of three thousand volumes, and a rare collection of paintings and sculpture. The poet's well known love of home, may have been much fostered through these domestic attractions.

The library of the Hon. Thomas W. Higginson, of Cambridge, contains two thousand volumes, and he has generously given a thousand to the

rious literary and other institutions. As we might expect from the studies to which the proprietor has given the greater part of his life, his collection is fullest in dogmatic theology. He is quite full in ecclesiastical and general history; and next in importance stand biography and miscellany.

The late Rev. Alexander Young, D. D., had a well selected and valuable library of from two to three thousand volumes, which is still entire at his late residence. It may be termed in general a miscellaneous library, and particularly full in English literature. There are a good variety of books in the departments of theology, history, and the ancient classics. Several of the books remind the beholder that Dr. Young had a great taste for the early history of his country. The library of Mr. Lemuel Shattuck is rather a speciality on statistics and sanitary sciences, as his publications would lead one to expect. The other departments of human knowledge in which he is fullest are history, local and general, public documents, biography and natural history, giving an entire aggregate of about two thousand volumes. Mr. Marshall P. Wilder, of Boston, has a speciality, too, on agriculture and horticulture, to which subjects he has given his leisure for many years.

The library of the Right Rev Manton Eastburn, D. D., contains near three thousand well selected volumes in the departments of theology, classical and English literature, in Italian, German, French and general miscellany. These subjects well represent Dr. Eastburn's book tastes and studies. His Stephen's *Æschylus* of 1567, a Greek Lexicon by Suidas, and Walton's Polyglot Bible, and others may be mentioned. The books of this library bear the appearance of having been much studied. Indeed, the criticism that one might pass upon some libraries is, that the books appear too nice, and too little read, so that he is led to infer that the knowledge is rather upon the shelves, than in the heads and hearts of the proprietors.

The library of Mr. Samuel C. Parker contains about six thousand volumes. Ten years ago the proprietor sold a library of some three thousand volumes, that were principally duplicates, as the original books were wanted. This transaction shows that Mr. P.'s library was formerly used as a depot. It is greatly full of old English Bibles, containing the most important of the old Bible translations. For the most part, the old Bibles are in remarkably well preserved condition. The chief objects of the library are the classics, the early editions

tory and antiquities of America. He has almost everything concerning the Indians, embracing besides bound volumes above a thousand tracts upon the aboriginal tribes, many of them very rare, and hardly to be found elsewhere.

The local history of New England, in particular, has long received special attention. Mr. D. has, besides, nearly all the published histories of states, counties, cities and towns, and a collection of seven or eight thousand pamphlets, illustrative of the local history of the divisions above enumerated. He has also two hundred volumes of English local histories, and a large number of early works on heraldry, pedigrees, and such subjects. The manuscripts of the library are considerably numerous, covering the period of the early settlement of New England - many of them autographs of the early settlers of Bradford, Wrentham, Wrentham, and their companies.

Mr. John Wells Parker, of Huxbury, having requested the librarian this winter a sketch of the library, that was considered to be considerably a specialty of an extensive literature, writes as follows:

"My library is a miscellaneous collection of almost every historical volume, and a great number of pamphlets. It is composed of books and tracts



and fifty bound volumes, and a large number unbound. These were mostly obtained by my father, the late Samuel Parker, who took much interest in collecting them.

“About two years since I succeeded in obtaining the Essex Gazette from 1768 to 1771, some numbers being missing in the first three years; so that I am only wanting in the files for 1772 and 1773, to have a file of the paper from 1768 to the present time, if we call the present Boston Daily Advertiser a lineal descendant of that journal. Fortunately I have files of other newspapers for those missing dates.

“I have a few numbers of the News Letter for 1710; also a file of the same for the years 1733 and 1734, and many numbers between that date and 1775. In addition may be mentioned the New England Weekly Journal, 1727 to 1729, and for 1733 and 1734, and files of the Weekly Advertiser, Boston Chronicle, Boston Post Boy, Boston Gazette, etc. My files of newspapers for that interesting period of ten or twelve years immediately preceding the Revolution are mostly in excellent preservation. Of the New Hampshire Gazette I have some numbers published in 1758. This paper is still published, and is, I think, the oldest continued newspaper in the

United States. I have specimens of most of the newspapers ever published in Boston.

“My father wrote a sketch of the Boston newspapers, in a series of numbers, which, subsequent to his decease in 1831, were published in the *Daily Advertiser*. He also collected a series of General Election and Artillery Election Sermons, of which I have a very good collection from 1700 to the present time. Of discourses published in Boston prior to 1775, I have upwards of two hundred.

“At a meeting of the New York Historical Society, recently, it was stated that their collection of newspapers alone amounted to two thousand volumes. We have nothing in any New England library that will compare with it in this respect.”

The Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D. D., has a good library for a clergyman, and of special value for a minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church. His study is lined with most of the standard works on divinity; and in works on ecclesiastical history and biblical literature he is quite full. And then he has a pretty good supply of works on general history, biography, science, agriculture, and that kind of literature that most aids and interests one of his profession.

Dr. V. has aimed, in purchasing, to secure books upon every branch of human knowledge that he is called to investigate, and to be quite independent of public libraries. And this he has accomplished through his own collection of one or two thousand good books, and the free use of the Sears' Library, which has been attached to St. Paul's Church by the munificence of a member of the parish. This last library numbers about fifteen hundred well chosen volumes, chiefly of a religious and theological character.

Dr. Joseph Palmer has been at the pains of collecting a thousand volumes, such as are not usually found in American bookstores. He has imported the most of them from Europe for his own use as a compiler of statistics, and a writer on general subjects. He has a considerable number of works in the various learned languages, and altogether his collection is more valuable than large. Dr. P. states, that Dr. N. B. Shurtleff, with whose collection he is familiar, has twice as many volumes as his own library contains, and that the books are of a similar description.

There are agreeable rumors of good libraries in Salem. No one who has ever met Mr. Stephen C. Phillips in his parlor can have failed to .

have observed those nicely bound ornaments in the shape of books, which are set off to advantage in several handsome cases. In that same city, Mr. Matthew A. Stickney has a collection of some fifteen hundred tomes, in addition to a speciality of almanacs. If one travels farther east, to West Newbury, and should chance to become the guest of Major Ben. Perley Poore, at the Indian Hill farm, he will by no means suffer from a famine of books, particularly in the departments of history, general literature and agriculture. The father of Major P., the late Mr. Benjamin Poore, who at one period of his life was a distinguished farmer, had collected several valuable works of the last class. But the gem of his literary stores is a large and valuable collection of autographs,\* beautifully arranged. It is particularly full of the letters of distinguished Europeans, since the residence of the collector abroad for several years gave him special opportunities to enrich the foreign department.

\* The Rev. William B. Sprague, D. D., of Albany, N. Y., has one of the largest and rarest collections of autographs in this country. The Rev. Thomas Smyth, D. D., of Charleston, S. C., possesses a choice collection. That of Mr. E. H. Lef-  
finwell, of New Haven, Conn., is valued at several thousand dollars. Other precious collections are those of Mr. Lewis J. Cist, of Cincinnati,—of Mrs. Z. Allen, of Providence,—of Mr. Mellen Chamberlain, of Chelsea,—and of Mr. Charles H. Morse, of Cambridge.



Passing to the western portion of the State, in the town of Buckland, we find a library that is creditable for a young farmer, in a retired place. Mr. Francis H. Forbes, the owner, is a great reader, and has been accustomed to purchase a book as he wished to read it. He now counts up nearly twelve hundred volumes, and in connection has a good collection of engravings. The volumes are chiefly in the departments of English literature and the ancient classics.

Mr. George Brinley, Jr., of Hartford, Conn., has the reputation of possessing books to the amount of several thousand, particularly illustrative of the early history of this country. Another collection of about three thousand, on miscellaneous subjects, is in the hands of Mr. Charles K. Dillaway, of Roxbury. Another important library is that of Rev. Dr. Francis, of Cambridge, which is large and very rich in old English literature. The late Mr. James Brown, of Watertown, collected a fine library on English literature, horticulture, and ornithology. The books are of the best editions and binding. The travels of Mr. B. in Europe and his frequent visits to London and Paris, gave him a fine opportunity to select good books for himself, as well as for others. Certain editions of British authors that he obtained are

very rarely seen in this country, or any other. The library is still preserved as he left it. And every body knows that it would have been much larger, but for the generosity he displayed towards several of the public libraries of this community.

The late venerable Mr. Thomas Wigglesworth left a respectable miscellaneous library. Gould's Birds of Europe, in fifteen folio volumes, in superb binding, and costing sixteen hundred dollars, is specially worthy of mention. It is a very rare book, in either public or private collection, in the United States. The library is still in the possession of the family. If the books of the sons of Mr. W., living near their aged mother in Franklin Place, are embraced, the family can reckon up them two to three thousand volumes.

The library of the late Gen. H. A. S. Dearborn embraced thirtysix hundred volumes, besides pamphlets. It contains many works on Natural History. The character of the books generally may be represented by Gen. D.'s habits as a general reader. The library is now in the possession of the family at Roxbury. His son, Mr. William L. Dearborn, of the same city, has a collection of fifteen hundred tomes, which is mostly a very

valuable speciality, relating to the profession of Mr. D.,—civil and military engineering.

Mr. Thomas Dowse, of Cambridge, has a large library of the very best English classics, of the best editions and binding. The venerable owner has been gathering these stores for many years, and it has evidently afforded him great pleasure. The writer can barely say, that he has glanced at the library that seems to be the richest and fullest in *English literature* of any owned by a private individual in New England.

Mr. Edward Everett gave the following beautiful and valuable notice of Mr. D.'s library in the course of an address introductory to the Franklin Lectures, in Boston, in 1881, on the "Advantage of Knowledge to Working Men."\*

"I scarce know if I may venture to adduce an instance, nearer home, of the most praiseworthy and successful cultivation of useful knowledge on the part of an individual, without education, busily employed in mechanical industry. I have the pleasure to be acquainted, in one of the neighboring towns, with a person who was brought up to the trade of a leather-dresser, and has all his life worked, and still works, at this business. He has devoted his leisure hours, and

\* *Speeches and Addresses of Edward Everett*, Vol. I, p. 141.

a portion of his honorable earnings to the cultivation of useful and elegant learning. Under the same roof that covers his workshop, he has the most excellent library of English books, for its size, with which I am acquainted. The books have been selected with a good judgment, which would do credit to the most accomplished scholar, and have been imported from England by himself. What is more important than having the books, their proprietor is well acquainted with their contents. Among them are several volumes of the most costly and magnificent engravings. Connected with his library is an exceedingly interesting series of paintings, in water colors,—copies of the principal works of the ancient masters in England,—which a fortunate accident placed in his possession, and several valuable pictures, purchased by himself. The whole forms a treasure of taste and knowledge, not surpassed, if equalled, by any thing of its kind in the country."

Mr. Zelotes Hosmer, also of Cambridge, has a very choice library of English and American literature. The proprietor modestly speaks of it as "small and undeserving of public mention." But his friends and those who have examined the books judge otherwise. He has many old



English books, of great value, some of which are literally "worth their weight in gold." The room that is lined with these treasures is one of the pleasantest of his picturesque cottage. From a survey of five minutes we should pronounce both books and room gems of their kind.

Repeated visits have made us place a higher and higher value upon the very rare and valuable library of Mr. George Livermore, of the same city, containing between three and four thousand volumes. Nearly a quarter part of the entire collection consists of Bibles and Biblical Works, in various languages, versions and forms, from the ancient Hebrew manuscript Roll to the most modern translation of our own times.

Among the manuscripts of interest is *The Pentateuch* carefully written on thirty-six skins of parchment, and measuring fifty-eight feet in length and one foot in breadth. This fine apograph is rolled upon a pair of handles and enclosed in an embroidered silk cover. It was formerly used in a Jewish Synagogue, and is a good specimen of an ancient volume or rolled book.

Two copies of the Bible entire, in the Latin Vulgate version, written by monks in the middle ages upon the most delicate vellum, are elaborately illuminated with beautiful initial letters,

figures and miniatures. They are of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Each was, perhaps, the work of a whole life.

To these may be added, an Evangelistarium, or Selections from the Gospels, for the use of the Church, written on parchment in the eighth century, seven hundred years before the invention of printing, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, book in this country. It was obtained at the sale of the library of the Rev. Dr. Hawtrey, Provost of Eton.

The Book of Job, a metrical version, by George Sandys, is supposed to be the original autograph copy of the author. It was formerly in the library of the late Duke of Sussex, and is particularly described by Dr. Pettigrew, in the *Bibliotheca Sussexiana*.

Next in order to the manuscripts is the *BIBLIA PAUPERUM*, a Block Book, or series of Wood Cuts, representing scripture subjects, with a few lines of text coarsely engraved upon the same page. The precise date is not known, but bibliographers are generally agreed in the opinion that it was printed as early as the year 1440.

There is in this library a fragment of the celebrated *Mazarin Bible*, *the first book ever printed*. Although the date does not appear, this work is

well known to have been the first that issued from the press of Guttenberg, and to have been completed in the year 1455. Mr. L. has also the New Testament, printed by Faust in 1462, being the first in which the date is given; and quite a number of Bibles published within the first half century from the invention of printing. Servetus's Bible, published in Lyons, 1542, is a very rare work. The entire edition was ordered to be burnt, by the Roman Catholic authorities, on account of the supposed heretical sentiments contained in the preface and in some of the notes. The author, in 1553, shared the same fate with his Bible. He was burned alive for heresy, and as many of the Bibles as could then be found were used to kindle the wood at the time of his martyrdom. But very few copies escaped the flames, and there is probably no other in this country.

Cromwell's Soldier's Pocket Bible, of which only one other copy is known to be extant, is a great curiosity. It consists of selections from the Scriptures, published in 1648, for the use of the army during the civil wars. Here are copies of both editions of Eliot's Indian Bible—the first containing the rare dedications to King Charles II., of which only twenty copies were printed; and a

perfect copy of the Commentary of Nicholas de Lyra, beautifully printed in black letter, in 1483, being the first work of the kind ever published.

Of English versions Mr. L. has all the editions of Wyclif, several of Coverdale, Tyndale, Cranmer, the Genevan, the Bishops, the Douay and the most remarkable editions of our present authorized version, from the first Black Letter Folio of 1611, to the recent revision of the American Bible Society.

A splendid unique large paper copy of Reeve's Bible, with several hundred original water-color illustrations, by Harris of London, and a New Testament printed entirely in letters of gold, were added to the collection on account of their beauty as works of art.

A special interest attaches to some copies of the Scriptures in Mr. Livermore's library, on account of their former ownership. The Venice edition of the Latin Vulgate, 1478, was once the property of the unfortunate Pope Pius VI., and has his arms stamped upon the covers. On the same shelf stands Melancthon's own copy of the Bible, with numerous notes on the margins in the hand writing of the Reformer. A copy of the Geneva version, presented by Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin to the late Rev. Dr. Homer of New-



ton, (from whose library it was purchased,) was supposed by its former owners to have been the identical copy presented by the printer to Queen Elizabeth. The Royal arms can still be traced on the covers. It was printed in 1576. But the Bible of Adam Winthrop, of Groton, England, the father of the first Governor of Massachusetts, is more highly prized by the present proprietor.

A manuscript Koran, brought many years ago from Turkey by Edward Wortley Montagu, and the Book of Mormon, with the autograph of Joseph Smith, possess an interest of a different kind.

Mr. L. has, in a large portfolio, *The Lord's Prayer* in more than eight hundred languages and dialects. This remarkable work was printed at the Imperial Office in Vienna, and exhibited as the contribution of the Emperor of Austria at the World's Fair in London. Only a few copies were allowed to be sold.

It may be mentioned that the only two New England subscribers to Halliwell's magnificent edition of Shakspeare, now publishing in England, in twenty folio volumes, and limited to one hundred and fifty copies, are near neighbors to each other—Mr. Hosmer and Mr. Livermore.

Mr. Garrison has from his boyhood been much interested in the subject of general bibliography, and he has collected a considerable number of the best works on this subject including typographical antiquities, and accounts of the most celebrated public and private libraries. In this department may be found nearly all the publications of Britain, as well of those produced from copies from the author, such as from the press of Gutenberg, Faust, Caxton, Wynken, de Worde, Pynson, Baskerville, Stephen Daye the first American printer, Dr. Franklin, and nearly all the most famous printers in Europe and America. Also privately printed books from Strawberry Hill, Lee Priory, the Roxburghe and other clubs. We might mention many other curious and rare volumes. The larger part of this library consists of standard works of English literature, history, biography, poetry, etc. etc.—the best editions of the best authors.

Another library, in the same city, is that of Mr. Charles Deane.\* This collection would be prized, not so much for its size, as for the rare

\* Mr. Barry, in his recent history of Massachusetts, Vol. I p. 110, in a foot note, pays the following deserved compliment to Mr. D. and his library: "The valuable notes accompanying this document, (the first Plymouth patent, published by the Massachusetts Historical Society,) are from the pen of Charles Deane, Esq., a gentleman than whom few are more conversant with the early history of Massachusetts, and whose well-stored library is a treasure of rare works on American history."







[illegible]











"A house is never properly furnished unless it contains one well filled book-case, at least, and if it is a house of any pretensions, it ought to have its library, and that not merely a nominal library ; since for a sum formerly paid for the Bible or Cicero, a man may line the side of a room with the best works in all languages."

Many might include works of Art in the proper furnishing of a house. In the highest sense of the language, they should be included. But books are more a necessity. If one has not the elementary school books, at least, he cannot be qualified for any business by which he may hope to gain a livelihood. Besides, if we are to choose between having the works of Homer, Milton, or Washington, and having their portraits, should we not select their works? We can hardly love a picture. We can admire it as a work of genius, or as an image of one we love. But we may have good books for they literally contain

THE HOUSE OF THE FUTURE.

The people of the future will be very much interested in the study of the past. The study of the past will be a necessary part of the education of the people of the future. The study of the past will be a necessary part of the education of the people of the future. The study of the past will be a necessary part of the education of the people of the future.

The utility of everything of the above list of private libraries is removed when their relations to public libraries and to scholars and readers generally, are considered. Several of these libraries would have been much larger and richer had not their generous owners loved themselves less, and the public good more. The truth is, some of our valuable public libraries have had their beginning and a very considerable proportion of their growth from the material given from private.\* And then, for many practical purposes, most of the libraries called private are public. Their doors are freely thrown open to all good and true scholars and they never honor their proprietors more than when using their books. And in most cases, a worthy scholar or reader, would find no difficulty in securing the loan of a book to take to his own rooms. Thus these rich private fountains of knowledge are owned substantially for the good of all. This is the true object of a library to be useful to as many as will use it. Perhaps there is no small act of kindness that a man can do for his fellow that may bless him so much, and so long, as the

\* It has been stated in the journals of the day, that the library of the late Rev. Dr. Searcy, of Boston, consisting of seventeen hundred volumes, has been purchased by a few thoughtful persons, and presented to the library of the Newton Theological Seminary.

knowing him a good book. How many suffer for the lack of books, and grow up with no taste for reading for the simple reason that they neither owned, nor could borrow books in their youth. What an influence for good would flow from our libraries of only one thousand volumes each, owned by single persons & every ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~books~~ <sup>books</sup> in the land, if freely loaned to all who would make a good use of them. Private libraries open to all, have these peculiar advantages, that no extra expense is required for a library building, or for the librarian. In a particular manner a hotel cannot be said to be thrushcock, we had almost said, in the moderate sense, that has not a good collection of books. How many a book-loving traveller or boarder has pined in one of these houses of entertainment, finding it sadly wanting in the best of entertainment, making him feel that he is a sojourner in a literary Sahara.

There is an intimate connection between success in the learned professions, in authorship and in numerous callings, and the books a man can call his own. Who ever heard of a great lawyer, physician, preacher, scholar, or author, whose study did not show the well-thumbed books—whose daily intellectual company at home were



not the great thinkers and writers of all ages? The very sight of a book, like a man's face, sharpens the intellect of him who glances at it. Books are not so much to be valued for the thoughts they give, as for those they suggest, and for the general quickening they give to all our mental powers. For those who think and write for the public, books are indispensable. If a young minister is to be settled over a people, to feed them "with knowledge and understanding," one would suppose, that while his examiners would not fail to test his soundness upon the "five points," or other of theology, and to inquire if he had been thoroughly educated at the universities, they would also ask him if he had a good library. For a parish to let their pastor go without a sufficient supply of good books, is to starve his mind, and through his, their own. So we may reason with regard to our physician, and our lawyer, and our author, and the teacher of our children. They cannot give us and ours what they have not themselves received, and books are their great sources of information. How appropriate that inscription now to be read over the door of a library of book-loving England: "*Non minima pars est eruditionis bonos nosse libros.*"

A man may walk through his own library  
 with something of the awe he has in a city of  
 the dead. He treads the silent walks of those  
 who are absent, but not lost. He sees the tombs  
 of such as cannot die.

"Crown'd with eternal fame, they sit sublime,  
 And laugh at all the little strife of time,  
 Lo! all in silence, all in order stand,  
 And mighty folios first, a lordly band;  
 Then quartos their well order'd ranks maintain,  
 And light octaves fill a spacious plain;  
 See yonder, ranged in more frequented rows,  
 A humble band of duodecimos;  
 While undistinguished trifles swell the scene,  
 The last new play and fitter'd magazine.  
 Hail, then, immortal! Ye who shine above,  
 Each in his sphere, the literary Jove;  
 And ye the common people of these skies,  
 A humbler cloud of nameless deities;  
 Whether 'tis yours to lead the willing mind  
 Through history's mazes, and the turnings hind;  
 Or whether led by science, ye retire,  
 Lost and bewild'rd in the vast cloister;  
 Whether the Muse invites you to her bowers,  
 And crowns your plac'd brows with living flowers;  
 Or godlike wisdom teaches you to show  
 The noblest road to happiness below;  
 Or men and manners prompt the easy page  
 To mark the flying follies of the age;  
 Whatever good ye boast, that good impart;  
 Inform the head and rectify the heart."

Farnham, Luther. A glance at private libraries. Press of Crocker and Brewster, 1855.  
Sabin Americana: History of the Americas, 1500-1926, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CY0106092860/SABN?u=vic\\_liberty&sid=SABN&xid=e65ad7c4&pg=1](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CY0106092860/SABN?u=vic_liberty&sid=SABN&xid=e65ad7c4&pg=1). Accessed 13 Mar. 2021.